

## PROFESSIONALS IN OVERDRIVE

CRAIG KLEVEN  
NDAAE PRESIDENT

“Professionals in Overdrive”, the theme for the 2008 NAAE convention could not be stated any better. Every NDAAE member probably can agree that we are always in overdrive and there never seems to be any free time. You dream of the days that you are caught up, developing new curriculum, are ahead of schedule, and are enjoying your weekends and evenings not working for the school! Well, for those of you racing towards Charlotte the NAAE has a workshop for you to manage your time! On Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> the featured workshop for NAAE is “Balancing Work and Family Life for the Busy Ag Teacher” by Dr. Marshall Stewart. This will be just one of the great workshops offered this year as there are over 70 workshops, proving to make this a convention to attend. If you have not registered be sure to visit <http://www.naae.org/> and sign up for the convention. If you are attending, please send me an email so I can list the number of attendees in the state report.

I hope all of you who traveled to and from the National FFA convention enjoyed the event and traveled safely. Due to the simultaneous scheduling of the National FFA convention and teachers convention, the fall executive meeting was moved to November 5 so a full report was not available at the timing of this article. I can tell you interest has been embraced by several groups regarding the movement of the Agriculture Education program at NDSU from the College of Human Development and Education to the College of Agriculture. Stay tuned for more information on this subject.

As a reminder be sure to check out and participate in the NAAE Webinars. NAAE webinars are a convenient and economical way to get quality agricultural education-specific professional development at the tip of your fingers. Check out <http://www.naae.org/webinars/index.html> for more information.

Region III will arrive to ND before we know it. As a reminder at PDC in August, it was decided that members should be thinking of a host for Region III and submit a proposal to myself by Region III in June. The purpose of this deadline was that the executive group would have some time to review the proposals before PDC in August. In addition, the ND delegation to Region III

in June of 2009 could share with the attendees a list of possible locations.

I hope your year is going well and “Thank You” for all your contributions to the Agriculture Education profession.



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## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, START YOUR ENGINES!

AARON ANDERSON  
NDAAE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Before each NASCAR race some popular icon gets the privilege of stating these words. The green flag drops and off to the races they go. Are we as professionals waiting for someone to start the race? Are we waiting for the green flag to drop?

What are we racing off too? Maybe it is to find that great lesson. Maybe it is to get that one student back on the right track, or could it be just a paycheck at the end of the month. Hopefully your answer to the question wasn't just the third. It seems like after the start of the school year, the race to District Leadership, and the laps to Indy for National Convention seems to put a lot of us into the pits. It is our job as Ag professionals to stay on the track and keep persevering. I have put together a little survival list that I try and do to keep me motivated throughout year.

**1. Reflect on the past !** Look at what you have done in the past and do what works. Pull out that knock out lesson and get those students involved. Lots of our problems are just the students getting burned-out with the rigors of the school year. Be that teacher that motivates them and it will recharge you.



**2. Do something different!** Seems like after a few years of teaching it is always easy to reach in the file cabinet or find the folder on the hard drive and do the same things we have done forever. I think there is nothing better than challenging yourself to a new subject area and learning it along with your students. The Communities of Practice also has some great ideas for those of us stuck in a rut.

**3. Attend a Convention/Conference!** This will give you a chance to get away and maybe gather some new ideas. If you never have attended the NAAE Convention, take the chance and try it. You might find some great ideas and be able to network with other educators from around the country. If traveling that far doesn't interest you, go to an Ag show, commodity group convention, or other gathering around the state. Use the words "professional development" and rarely see the resistance from your administration.

**4. Look to your neighbor!** We have a great group of educators here in North Dakota and many will give you some great ideas. Send out a message to the list serve (but don't reply to it). Even some of the old ornery aggies will give you some good ideas.

**5. At least it's not you!** When you are having that bad day there is always someone else that is having one worse than you. You could have been the one that evacuated the capital building, got another schools van impounded, stole a bus/got pulled over by the HP, injured yourself or a colleague, and the list could keep going.

**6. Think Positive!** Seems like there are a million self-help books on the market and for some reason they almost all have the same theme. Maybe some of us should take a thing or two from them and start putting it into practice. It can go a long ways.

This was just a short list with many many more things that could be added. If you are waiting for someone to get your race started well here it is,

AGGIES, START YOUR ENGINES!!!

## **2008 NDAAE Awards**

**Outstanding Adult/Post Secondary Program  
North Dakota State School of Science**



**Adult Teacher of the Year  
Reuben Mayer**



**Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year &  
Outstanding Teacher of Education  
Lyle Warner**



**Secondary Teacher of the Year  
Scott Thiel**



Outstanding Secondary Program  
McClusky Public School



Outstanding Young Member  
Dan Spellerberg



Outstanding Service Citation  
Joel Lemer



Distinguished Service  
George Flaskerud, Larry Gegelmann,  
Elwood "Woody" Barth

My Creed  
Ashley Vangness, Brendt Arndt





Outstanding Cooperation  
Tom and Jennifer Hansen



Outstanding Cooperation  
Doug Stoltz—Falkirk Mine



NFRBMEA Distinguished Service  
Lowell Nelson



CHS Foundation Scholarship Winners



Dave Axt, Curt Leslie, Amanda Huettl,  
Glen Huettl, Missy Hansen, and Trevor  
Steeke

Not Pictured; Marcus Lewton, Jeff Ball,  
Joseph Reum

**Thank You CHS Foundation  
for your support!**

## Years of Service

### 35 Years



**Larry Kaul, Rueben Mayer, Jay Olson,  
and Keith Torgerson**

### 25 Years



**Glen Clark**

### 30 Years



**“Sexy Six!!!” Curt Leslie, Noel Po-  
doll, Myron Johs, Joel Lemer  
Not Pictured Fred Thomasson  
& Cory Lohse**

### 20 Years



**Larry Lundberg  
Not Pictured; Mathew Mootz**

## 15 Years



Glen T. Huettl & Ron Smithberg

## 10 Years



Troy Enga

## 5 Years



Pete Hetle, Kelly Finke  
Not Pictured; Scott Wisness



Do you have a student that might be interested in a career in Ag Ed? Direct them and all your students to <http://www.naae.org/teachag/index.html> and let them explore the world of Agriculture Education and what it has to offer.

## It's not what you know, but how you teach it!

Tony Boehm—Richland Jr/Sr High School

I have been forced recently to reflect on the teaching methods I use in my classroom. Taking a college course will do that to you! I find it amazing that all of the educational psychology notes I threw away after college, as I told myself I would never need them, have come back to life. I do not know about being older and wiser, but maybe I have finally come to a place in my teaching career where I can remove myself from the rigors of the daily hectic grind and evaluate "how" I am teaching. Two aspects really stick out. The first is that agricultural education was founded and still is based on scientific principles. Second, I see my slow transition from lecture to student centered activities that allow them to solve problems using the inquiry-based teaching method.

W.H. Shepardson claimed that "Agriculture is a meeting ground of the sciences", and that biology, physics, and chemistry make up the basis (Shepardson, 1929, as cited in Parr & Edwards, 2004). Even before the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, agricultural education was known for its strong scientific foundation. Furthermore, it is written that agricultural education provides a method for students to study mathematics and science (Parr & Edwards, 2004). Studies continue to show that agricultural education is more than a career and technical course, but that true academic concepts are taught. Agriculture is more than the meeting ground of the sciences, but also a place where mathematics, social sciences, and written and spoken language collide. As elective courses like agriculture continue to receive pressure from required courses, No Child Left Behind, college preparedness, and increase graduation rates, those who support agricultural education need to convince policy makers that Ag. Ed. is truly an academic course, and the vehicle that brings life to other courses.

"Inquiry-based instructional involves giving students just enough information and having them build on what they know to make assumptions to create new knowledge."

When I first started teaching, I created a list of units that I wanted to teach the students. There were so many things that I firmly believed should be taught because they were important for the student to learn. Lecture was definitely the easiest way to get the most information to the student. It seemed like the more I taught, the less they learned, and the less they retained. Over the years, I have concentrated on the truly important concepts, and have paid much more attention to these few concepts. My philosophy has been to teach less, but do a better job teaching what remains. In short, that means less lecture and more activities. One teaching method I have found is a problem-solving approach, the inquiry-based instructional model.

Inquiry-based instructional involves giving students just enough information and having them build on what they know to make assumptions to create new knowledge. This method has students investigate, review, interpret, explain and predict. Remember Bloom's Taxonomy? Agricultural education provides many opportunities for problem solving, or inquiry-based lessons. Parr and Edwards state that "learning context should be coupled with multiple opportunities in which they 'construct' or make meaning of their learning" (p. 106). This problem solving approach is not only hands-on, but minds-on. Students demonstrate higher achievement when they are active learners (Retig & Canady, 1996, as cited in Parr & Edwards, 2004). As the students become more responsible for their learning, the teacher assumes the role of a facilitator, and walks the students through the process by which learners build on what they already know to solve the problem or answer the question. I will never forget when my high school biology instructor got off subject and spent the whole period asking us why the bark on a tree was rough. He asked us questions and really made us work hard for the answer. What could have been a two minute answer that the class could have memorized and spit out on a test, took 50 minutes to solve ourselves. Nineteen years later I still know today why the bark on a tree cracks. This is a great example of how the instructor posed questions, gave the students just enough information, and then facilitated the discussion until we figured it out ourselves.

(continued next page)



Inquiry-based education not only is a means to teach content, but there are also other benefits. This teaching method forces students to practice critical thinking skills, become more creative, use the scientific method, and develop self-confidence as they solve problems. I am convinced that sometimes real education happens "while" students learn content, and more than the content itself.

While at Barnes and Noble this weekend, I was amazed at all of the people reading non-fiction materials. Never have I seen a public library as busy! It made me wonder if it is human nature for us to try to solve problems and become more intelligent. In a physical world that is constantly becoming more unorganized, it is our human nature to try to understand and organize everything around us. Maybe it is this phenomenon that makes inquiry-based education effective. Most students enjoy solving problems and creating new knowledge out of old knowledge. Most students are motivated by creating, building, accomplishing and solving. I could probably do a better job of posing questions and making students think critically. I should wait for the students to create solutions instead of just giving them the answers. If educators and students can work at this level, both comprehension and retention will improve. I spend a lot of time studying "what I teach". I need to spend more time studying "how I teach".

Tony Boehm is employed by the Southeast Region Career and Technology Center, and teaches Agricultural Education at Richland Jr/Sr High School in Colfax ND.

**CONGRATULATIONS TONY!**  
**NATIONAL AGRISCIENCE**  
**"TEACHER OF THE YEAR"**



## NDAAE Fall Meeting Minutes

**November 5, 2008**

### Washburn High School

The meeting was called to order by President Craig Kleven at 1:30 pm in the Board Room at Washburn High School, Washburn, ND.

Introductions were done. The following people were present: President, Craig Kleven; President Elect, Aaron Anderson; Past President, JoDee Free; Secretary, Tracey Hartwig; Treasurer, Amanda Huettler; Assistant Treasurer, Jeff Ball; District II VP, Bill Zing; District II assistant VP, Brandon Quam; District V VP, Scott Wisness; District VII VP, Dave Axt; District VIII VP, Larry Lundberg; District IX VP, Anissa Wilhelm; District X VP, Jory Hanson; District XI VP, Don Hagen, State FFA Executive Doug Vannurden.

The secretary's report was handed out and reviewed. David A. moved to accept the minutes, JoDee Free seconded, motion passed.

The treasure's report was handout out and reviewed. Jory Hanson moved to accept the report, Bill Zing seconded, motion passed.

ACTE report given that dues will go up \$10 as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

JoDee Free informed the group that there was nothing new with the Intern position at this time. It will continue and more information will be provided at the next meeting.

The mentoring program was discussed, a reminder to those who are involved to be meeting and make sure the mentors are helping the new Ag teachers. There is a reminder that there will be a thank you gift at the end of the mentoring program.



Aaron Anderson reported on the Ag & I, the new issue ready to be emailed out. Vice Presidents were reminded to send in summaries of what is going on in your district. Others are reminded, we are all interested in your new activities and recognition of what is going on in your part of the state.

#### VP/District Reports

5 – Scott reported Myron has been having some health issues; our best goes out to him. There is also a change in date of the Red River Valley Fair from June to July.

10-Jory reported that the Farm Business Instructors in district 10 participated in Big Iron with a booth. They also had a conference in Rugby this fall and now they are getting ready closeout.

11-Don reported the Farm Business Instructors in district 11 participated in the conference in Rugby also. They are getting a booth ready for the Ag Expo in January.

7- David reported there will be an opening in Hebron at the end of the semester. November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mandan will be hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Mandan FFA Toy Show.

2-Bill reported that things are running smoothly.

9 – Anissa reported that Post secondary held a leadership orientation for PAS in September. Students are fired up for the State Conference in January at the Ag Expo.

8-Larry reported that Riston is doing a great job in his student teaching. Allen G. put on an Intro to FFA for Jr. High students.

6-JoDee reported that districts went well, they are preparing for the change in redistricting.

Craig, JoDee, Aaron and Tracey will be attending NAAE Convention in Charlotte.

Summer in service was discussed. Last summers in-service at Wahpeton was excellent, it was a nice touch having the college involved. The VP's were asked to discuss agenda ideas and topics with their districts and report them to Brent. Kim M is interested in hosting in Williston. People are interested in continuing graduate credit for taking the class.

News releases for PDC award winners and activities were discussed. We need to find a better way of reporting and getting information to Ag publications and local newspapers for the winners. We will ask Beth for a format for the press release and for a list to send the releases; in addition, we will ask if she would assist us in getting these items sent out. A generic press release can be made for some of the award areas, such as the outstanding teacher. The Distinguish service award areas will need the assistance of the individuals that make the nominations in writing up the press release. JoDee moved to make the press release to be part of the Intern position, Don H seconded, motion passed.

Craig discussed moving the Distinguish Service Award presentation to the beginning of the banquet. Don discussed that this should be the highlight of the banquet, so it should stay towards the end as it is, a point needs to be made that this is the "highlight" of the banquet to ensure that they are aware that we do appreciate all that they do for our programs and our organization.

JoDee had information on NDAAE shirts. Long sleeve shirts are \$24; short sleeve \$20; Polos \$24. Graphite gray was chosen as the color.

NDSU resolution was discussed. Craig had sent a letter to Dean Virginia Clark Johnson in September. Adult Farm Business and FFA Foundation have sent letters in support of the move. Craig called and sent an email to discuss the matter. He was told he would have an answer by semester time. If anyone has contact with individuals or groups that could show their support, please ask them to write letters in support of our move. We need to show rationale for the move and why it is so vital to the future of our organization. There are upcoming meetings and conventions for ND Farm Bureau and Farmers Union conventions; we need to get resolutions to be presented at this time.

Traveling trophies for high individual for each CDE was discussed. A \$75 sponsorship for each area would need to be secured. Discussion was the difficulty in getting them returned. Larry L moved to acquire traveling trophies for the High Individual for the CDEs; David A seconded; motion failed.

Doug V requested a \$75 dollar donation for the College Bowl. Aaron moved to donate; Jory seconded; motion passed.

Re-Districting was discussed. This included the rationale behind the various versions including the number of FFA members per district and number of delegates. If anyone has other versions that they would like to put together they are welcome to do this and send them to Doug V. This will be voted on at the January meeting and will go into effect immediately.

Doug discussed the new Ag Ed Standards that were published by Nationals. They are available on line at AdEdLearning.org. The publication is 64 pages long and the areas are divided into 7 Career Clusters. Our next step will be to combine these with our present standards. Our class numbers for MISO3 forms will change in the future to match the new standards. They are working on a test on the National Level to distinguish how the standards are being taught and retention by the students. Anyone interested in working on this committee should contact Doug.

The Quality Program Standards as been updated and is presently being implemented.

JoDee discussed Region III. 2009 will be held in NE; 2010 will be held in MN; 2011 will be held in ND. By the spring meeting we need towns to submit host proposals along with hotels, meeting spaces and tours available.

PDC new teacher workshop was discussed for the following year. It will be continued. In addition we will be looking at hosting a session during the Tuesday afternoon workshops at the Ramkota for all Ag Instructors.

Larry L moved to have the Spring meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 @ the Washburn High School. Jeff B seconded, motion passed. Craig will look in to a morning tour at Falkirk Mine.

Meeting was adjourned.

## **Tuition Grants available for Farm Business Management Programs**

BISMARCK -- There are tuition grants available for young farmers who decide to enroll in a Farm Business Management Program in North Dakota. The ND FFA Foundation is offering four grants of \$500 per year towards tuition in a Farm Business Management Program.

Farm Business Management Programs are designed to provide education to farm owners and operators or persons interested in farming. The purpose of the program is to assist clients in meeting their business and personal goals. This is best accomplished through the use of quality records and sound business decisions and guided by a comprehensive business analysis.

Preference will be given to new enrollees whom are former FFA members and/or belong to a local FFA Alumni. For more information on the Farm Business Management Program in North Dakota, go to [www.ndfarmmanagement.com](http://www.ndfarmmanagement.com). Due date of applications is Dec. 1 - go to [www.ndffaoundation.com](http://www.ndffaoundation.com) for an application or contact the foundation office at 701-224-8390.



**Scott and Dan “helping or hurting?” Andrew Young in his Ag Sales practice.**

**Mark your Calendars!**  
**Spring NDAAE Meeting**  
**April 8th 1:30pm**  
**Washburn High School**  
**Morning Tours Planned**

## **Blue Jackets Bright Futures Looking for Donations**

The Blue Jackets Bright Futures project began in North Dakota in 2005 with the 2005-2006 State Officer Team feeling like they needed to help current FFA members with obtaining an FFA jacket. These are jackets for those students who have never had a jacket before. At the 2006 State FFA convention, 47 FFA members were presented with new FFA jackets with their name and chapter embroidered on the jacket. It was quite a sight! At the 2007 State FFA Convention 75 jackets were donated, and at the Greenhand Conference last year 90 students were given jackets.

We are again collecting funds for this wonderful program. Donations of \$55 ensure a young member a bright future in a new jacket. Please consider giving to this worthy cause.

Contact Beth at (701)224-8390 or send a check for \$55 to:

ND FFA Foundation  
 PO Box 6022  
 Bismarck, ND 58506



## **BSC students take agriculture field trip**

October 30, 2008

BISMARCK, N.D. – Thirty-seven Bismarck State College students got a glimpse of how they might participate in the future of agriculture on a field trip to the Minneapolis area Oct. 21-23.

Hosted by Cenex and Farmers Union professionals, the bus tour for members of the BSC Agriculture, Technology and Natural Resources Club included a stop in Fargo to view the North Dakota Beef Center for Excellence.

Students and BSC advisors traveled in the Farmers Union charter bus, which turned into a classroom of information on the way to Minneapolis. The five hosts engaged students in Q&A activities and talked about growth and changes in agriculture and current and future direction of the industry.

In Inver Grove Heights, students visited with several division managers at CHS corporate headquarters, including Leon Westrock, CEO and executive vice president of Cenex Energy. CHS is a national cooperative marketer of grain and oilseed and manufacturer of their value-added products, including Cenex-brand fuels/lubricants.

Other stops were made at the CHS grain terminal, Land O'Lakes corporate headquarters, Minneapolis Grain Exchange, CF Industries Pine Bend Fertilizer Plant, Mill City Museum, Cabela's, and Mall of America.

Cenex of Bismarck/Mandan was key sponsor of the trip, along with Morton and Burleigh County Farmers Union and North Dakota Farmers Union. Travel hosts were Cy Fix, CEO and general manager of Cenex of Bismarck-Mandan; certified energy specialist Jeff Gross, Cenex of Bismarck-Mandan; Jim Hopfauf, Morton County Farmers Union; and Jane Opdahl, Josh Kramer, and Jeff Willer, North Dakota Farmers Union.

"Their contacts with the companies we visited were key to such a terrific experience," said Bobbi Bingham, agriculture, technology and natural resources instructor. "We hope to make this a biennial event."

Students attending were Jessica Hauge, Bismarck; Chelsey Johnson and Paul Renner, Mandan; Stacy Jangula, Baldwin; Kristine Dammel, Medina; Molly Backhaus and Brian Kunkel, New Salem; Cordell Schmitz, Menoken; Joe Odermann, Medora; Bryce Weber and Ryan Bosch, Linton; Shane Weigel, Chad Weigel, and Alex Wald, Napoleon; Kyle Wells, Carson; Nathan Messmer, Mott; Samantha Johnson, Hettinger; Levi Rue, Sheyenne; Kevin Severtson, Doyon; Scott Jacob, Kintyre; Brandon Meidinger, Ashley; Josh Thomas, Turtle Lake; Jordan Kramer, Kensal; Levi Hintz, Jamestown; Drew Erdman, Minot; Lindsey Hilseth and Aleah Barenthsen, Powers Lake; Haylee Wax, Regent; Derek Seright, Towner; Jason Huber, Westhope; Adam Balk, Sawyer; Desserae Berndt, Rugby; and Brian Beckley, Jeff Larson, Beau Ferguson, Tanner Lura, and Stephanie Theis of Carrington.

## **NAAE Communities of Practice**

Are you stuck in a rut? Do you need some new lesson ideas for your Ag Mech class? Having problems with classroom management? All these questions and many more can be answered inside the NAAE communities of practice web page. By going to, <http://naae.ca.uky.edu:8080/clearspacex/index.jspa> and doing a little surfing you can find lots of neat ideas. This is a web based forum for all Ag Ed professionals to ask/answer questions, share lesson ideas, and give links to many useful sites. It has grown to over 700 registered members and is waiting for you to join.

## NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS

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**We're on the Web**  
**[WWW.NDAAE.ORG](http://WWW.NDAAE.ORG)**

### ND FFA Alumni Raffle

The ND FFA Alumni is once again holding a raffle with the grand prize of a 2008 Polaris 500 Sportsmen ATV. Other prizes include a 270 Savage Rifle/Scope Package, 870 Remington Express Magnum Shotgun, Medora Weekend for 2, and 3-\$100 cash prizes.



Tickets are \$15 and the drawing will be held January 10. Please contact one of the local alumni affiliates for tickets or Aaron Anderson at [Aaron.C.Anderson@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:Aaron.C.Anderson@sendit.nodak.edu) or (701) 448-2365.

All proceeds benefit ND FFA.